

REMARKS

Subsequent to entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are presently pending in this application. The features from claim 3 are incorporated into claim 1, and claim 3 is hereby cancelled. Claims 6-20 are also cancelled via this Amendment.

As for the rejection of claim 3 (now part of claim 1), the Examiner points to col. 2, lines 29-36 of Matthews as allegedly disclosing the claimed ratio $D2/D1$. However, this portion of Matthews describes various dimensional ranges from which an infinite number of different ratios could be calculated, some of which might be within the claimed range (possibly) and some outside. In no way does this cited description provide an affirmative teaching or even a fair suggestion of the claimed range of $D2/D1$. In fact, only by relying on the instant application would one even know to evaluate the ratio $D2/D1$; however, it is clearly and strictly improper to rely on the disclosure of the present invention to reject the claims, as the Examiner is doing.

As for claim 4, Ishigami says nothing about a ratio of tube current to outer diameter of the electrodes. Ishigami is completely silent regarding any such ratio or its significance. Again, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is impermissibly relying on hindsight.

Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, all of the presently pending claims are believed to be allowable.

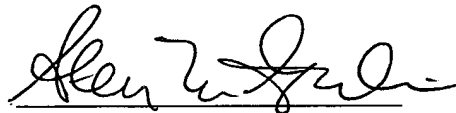
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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ART UNIT 2879
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Reconsideration and allowance of this application are, therefore, now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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